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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Ongoing priorities and themes: data collection and the disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples

Draft recommendations submitted by Rapporteur

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recognizes that segregated data provide a key tool for the planning and execution of programmes and projects and the monitoring and evaluation of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for indigenous peoples.

1. Recalling the international expert Workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples (see E/C.19/2004/2, for the report thereon), the Forum welcomes the collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in reviewing national practices in data collection and dissemination in the areas of ethnicity, language and religion and looks forward to the *Demographic Yearbook* special topic which will include data and analysis relevant to indigenous peoples. The Forum is also pleased to note that data on national and/or ethnic groups are being made available online by the Statistics Division at the following website:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dybcens.htm

In light of this work, as well as the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, the Forum supports the Statistics Division in:

(a) Continuing its work in reviewing national practices in data collection and dissemination on issues relevant to indigenous peoples;

(b) Considering the extent to which the revision of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* can further address national and international data needs by facilitating the collection of data on indigenous peoples;

(c) Continuing to follow the recommendations of the international expert Workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples;

(d) Strengthening user-producer consultation in data collection and dissemination efforts.

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2. The Forum recommends that the United Nations Statistics Division mainstream statistical issues pertaining to indigenous peoples in the development of handbooks and guidelines. The Forum also recommends that the Statistics Division continue to coordinate with the regional commissions and consider that part of their work that is relevant to indigenous people and census operations in the revision of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*.

3. The Forum welcomes the contributions of the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to data-collection and disaggregation projects and recommends that these processes develop indicators that are culturally sensitive to indigenous peoples.

4. We encourage the Economic and Social Council in respect of the following recommendation: the Council should request that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean continue and strengthen its efforts regarding the production, elaboration and use of relevant information from population census, household surveys and other adequate sources, in strong interaction with indigenous peoples, aiming at improving the socio-economic conditions and active participation of indigenous peoples in the development process throughout the Latin American region.

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends that in all relevant data-collection processes, Member States and United Nations organizations:

5. Include questions on indigenous identity with full respect for the principle of self-identification. It is important to develop multiple criteria by which to accurately capture identity and socio-economic conditions with the active and meaningful participation of local indigenous peoples.

6. Assure and support the full participation of indigenous peoples as equal partners in all stages of data collection, including planning, implementation, analysis and dissemination, access and return, with the appropriate resourcing and capacity-building for achieving this objective. Data collection must respond to the priorities and aims of the indigenous communities themselves.

7. Follow the principle of free, prior and informed consent at all levels and take into account both the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as established by the Statistical Commission and provisions on human rights and fundamental freedoms and data protection regulations and privacy guarantees including respect for confidentiality. For indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation, data-collection exercises should not be used as a pretext for establishing forced contact.

8. Promote and support the utilization of local indigenous languages and, where no written language exists, employ local indigenous peoples (as translators/interpreters as well as advisers) to assist in the collection process.

9. Take into account the full diversity and demographic profile of indigenous communities, including gender, children, youth and aged persons, people with disabilities, nomadic, semi-nomadic and migrating peoples, peoples in transition, displaced persons, indigenous peoples in urban areas, and particularly vulnerable groups of indigenous peoples.

10. The Forum recommends that States and United Nations organizations involve indigenous peoples' representatives in designing, implementing and monitoring data

collection and disaggregation by ensuring their membership in the mechanism of national commissions on population censuses and related institutional arrangements.

Capacity-building

11. The Forum recommends that technical training sessions for indigenous peoples should be promoted and supported and that their employment by data-collection institutions at the national and international levels should be facilitated.

12. Indigenous professionals, technicians and indigenous leaders should build their capacity in respect of data-collection processes and non-indigenous professionals and technicians should be informed of the culture and practices of indigenous peoples.